THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Scottish Gas

SOCCER AUSTRALIA

SCOTLAND v AUSTRALIA

THE SCOTTISH GAS INTERNATIONAL

The National Stadium,
Hampden Park, Glasgow

Wednesday 15 November 2000

Kick-Off 8pm

Official Programme £2.00

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WELCOME from the Scottish Football Association

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Front cover: Don Hutchison and Kasey Wehrman

On behalf of the Scottish Football Association, I should like to extend a warm welcome to everyone for this evening's match against Australia.

A year is a long time in football, and with a full twelve months between the visit of France for the inaugural match at Hampden, and the World Cup qualifier against Belgium next March, I am sure this match will be welcomed by Scotland supporters as a chance to cheer on the team.

Scotland is, of course, aiming to qualify for the 2002 World Cup, and as tonight represents an important part of Craig Brown's preparations, I hope that everyone gives their full support to help the team as it strives to qualify for another major finals tournament. The signs are certainly good, with Scotland sitting top of its group, unbeaten after three difficult away matches.

This evening's match is the third occasion in recent years that the Association has had the pleasure of welcoming our friends from Australia. They were drawn against Scotland in a nerve-wracking play-off for the 1986 World Cup competition, and returned in 1996 in more relaxed circumstances for a friendly which marked Ally McCoist's 50th cap.

Although they have yet to beat Scotland - or even score - in three attempts, the Australians' record in international competition is steadily improving, and they too have designs on qualification for the 2002 World Cup. A quick glance at their squad list reveals a number of talented and well-known names in European football and further afield, and I am sure they will be a stern test for Scotland.

I was delighted last month to receive a letter from the Mayor of Zagreb, congratulating the Scotland support for its exemplary behaviour and sporting sprit in support of their team in Croatia. This contributed, he said, to the exceptional atmosphere surrounding the match, and I would like to endorse his comments and add my congratulations to the Tartan Army.

To all Scotland fans, thank you for your support and I hope you enjoy this evening's match

Jack McGinn.
President, Scottish Football Association

CRAIG BROWN
International Team Manager

WE are back at the National Stadium again for the first time since our friendly match in March against the World and European Champions, France.

Since then we've been to Holland, Ireland, Latvia, San Marino and Croatia, an away-from-home series of matches that has seen us win three and draw two of the five tricky fixtures. If we add good recent away victories in Germany, Bosnia and England it will be apparent that the players are finding it no disadvantage to compete on their travels.

Of course, a major contributory factor to this success has been the tremendous support which we have received at each and every one of the places we visit. It was quite incredible to see (and hear) the magnitude of the support which we had, particularly recently in San Marino and in Zagreb.

On behalf of the players, officials and staff, I extend my grateful thanks to those of you who, at considerable cost, made the journey to lend your support to our World Cup qualifying campaign. Thank you very much.

Our job now is to make Hampden an intimidating place and the fortress which I'm sure it can be in Scottish international football. Although our away record has been acknowledged recently it's not so long ago since we had a run of excellent home results spoilt, unfortunately, by defeats against the Czech Republic, England and France. These games apart, we have done exceptionally well at home, even although we were somewhat nomadic for the last couple of seasons. Let's hope that a return to the National Stadium, and the stability which it will provide, together with the backing which we traditionally receive, will result in performances to match.

In recent qualifying games we have been bedevilled by injury and we had no fewer than seven injured players for the match in Zagreb. For example, the unlucky Paul Lambert has failed to play in one of our last five competitive matches - twice against England and in our three away qualifying games. If you add the names of Barry Ferguson, Christian Dailly, Billy Dodds, Neil McCann, Jackie McNamara, and Dominic Matteo, it will be apparent that we have had to soldier on with, at times, half our regular selection unavailable.

This friendly fixture against our friends from Australia was arranged after I had a meeting at an Old Firm match with Frank Farina, the Australian manager, who wished a run out primarily for his European-based

Scotland v Australia

players. With players like Mark Viduka, Tony Vidmar and Craig Moore well known locally, I did hope that the fixture would have considerable appeal. I do hope that this is the case and that, with the prices at a very modest level, it will be considered a worthwhile fixture.

The fact that tonight is not a qualification game for the World Cup provides opportunity to experiment a little. I have been anxious to blood Dominic Matteo of Leeds United and to give more international experience to players like Gary Naysmith, Callum Davidson, Colin

▲ ...Archie Knox, who will receive his UEFA Pro-Licence Diploma, with Craig Brown

Cameron, Paul Dickov, Paul Ritchie, Allan Johnston and others. We like to win every match in which we compete so, although we shall experiment a little, the team selected will be designed to win this prestigious football match.

I'd like to take the opportunity to congratulate a number of coaches - many of whom have represented this country at international level - who will be in attendance tonight to receive their UEFA Pro-Licence Diplomas.

The award is the highest accolade possible in European coaching circles. They include Roy Aitken, Eric Black, Jimmy Bone, Tommy Burns, Dick Campbell, Jim Clark, Neale Cooper, Tommy Craig, Jim Fallon, Jim Fleeting, Archie Knox, Gerry McCabe, Kenny McDowall, Alex McLeish, Murdo MacLeod, Ross Mathie, Alex Miller, Iain Munro, Donald Park, Jim Sinclair, Jocky Scott, Alex Smith, Walter Smith, Billy Stark, Paul Sturrock, Andy Watson and Bobby Williamson.

So far, we are the only country in the British Isles to offer our coaches the chance to gain the award, which requires no less than 250 hours of dedicated work including a foreign study. There has been some ill-infomed criticism of our coaching structure here in Scotland but I know that it is highly regarded throughout Europe and respected by those who have undertaken the demanding work involved.

For example, Sir Alex Ferguson, the foremost manager in Europe, if not the world, was never away from our courses at Largs when he worked in Scotland and had the time available. If you add other names such Billy Brown, Terry Christie, Sandy Clark, Gordon Dalziel, Billy Davies, Tom Hendrie, Alan Hodgkinson, Jim Jefferies, Brian Kidd (now on the England backroom staff), Billy Kirkwood, Jim Leishman, Maurice Malpas, John McCormack, Billy McLaren, Jim McLean, Willie McStay, Willie Miller, David Moyes, Jimmy Nicholl, Steve Paterson, Bruce Rioch, John Robertson, Jocky Scott, Jim Stewart, Gordon Strachan, Colin Todd, Alex Totten, Andy Watson, etc, etc,... you will see the calibre of men that our Largs courses have produced!

But it's on the field of Hampden that matters tonight. As I said earlier, we must build on our recent results and find something which will be useful for our vital matches in the spring of next year. With your help I'm sure that this will be possible, so I urge you to provide the usual Tartan Army encouragement and I'm sure you'll get the deserved response. Enjoy the match.

THE TEAM ON TOP

The Scotland National Football team and Craig Brown have every reason to feel confident tonight. Since September, the squad have had two wins and one draw against opponents at the start of their World Cup 2002 qualifying campaign. At the close of the year 2000, Scotland are sitting proudly at the top of Group Six. As the official and exclusive sponsor of the Scottish National Football teams, Scottish Gas is delighted with their success and also to be tonight's match sponsor.

In September, we launched an exciting new venture, Scottish Gas Communications, supplying home phones, mobile and internet services. As you know, Scottish Gas is already the most successful of the new entrants into the electricity market and offers a wide range of home related products and services. Telecom services are a natural progression.

I am sure tonight's game will be an ideal opportunity for both teams to try out new players in the company of seasoned campaigners as part of their World Cup qualifying strategies.

Good Luck to both teams

Jim Needham, Director of Scottish Gas

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The Scottish National Football Teams

THE SOCCEROOS

...Aussies around the world

▲ ...Tony Vidmar in Rangers colours

SINCE IT is approaching summer 'down under', a dark November evening in Glasgow seems like an odd choice for Australia as it prepares to qualify for the World Cup in two years' time.

However, all it requires is a quick look at the Australian squad list to realise that the date and venue make perfect sense. Unlike his Scotland counterpart, Craig Brown, if the Australian manager, Frank Farina, wants to see his players at club level, he has mostly to travel half-way around the world. With most of his first-choice squad based in Europe, better that Farina goes to them rather than the other way around.

In Scotland alone, there are three players with sufficient credentials to make it on to Farina's team sheet: Stuart Lovell at Hibernian and the Rangers duo of Craig Moore and Tony Vidmar. But for his departure from Celtic to Leeds United in the summer, Mark Viduka would have been a fourth.

Moore is recovering from a knee injury and Lovell is new to the squad, but Vidmar is a strong candidate to play this evening. If he does, he will be joined by a clutch of players who have had to travel from no further afield than England.

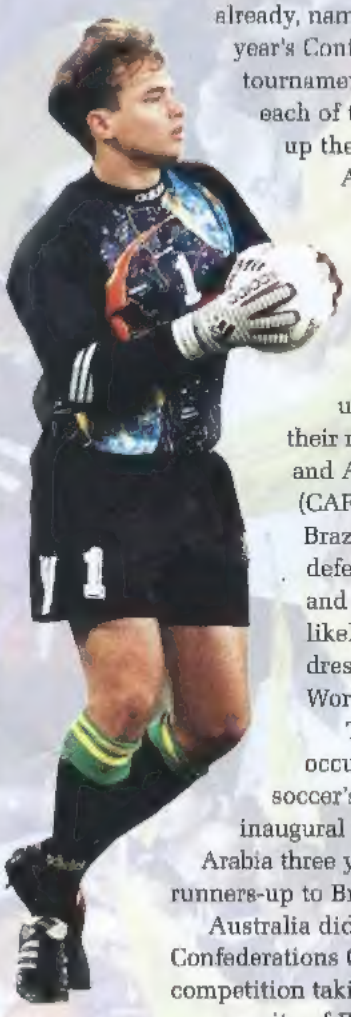
Throughout the English senior game, there is a healthy sprinkling of Australian players, from Mark Bosnich at Manchester United to Danny Invincibile at Swindon Town, from Danny Tiatto at Manchester City to Andrew McDermott at Notts County, from Kevin Muscat at Wolves to Stan Lazaridis at Birmingham City, from Paul Okon at Middlesbrough to Shaun Murphy at Sheffield United. And so the list continues. On the continent, there is again a strong presence, including Brett Emerton and Stephen Laybutt at Dutch club, Feyenoord.

The steady stream of players from Australia to Europe has not been unbroken, however. Only the other week, defender Simon Colosimo had failed to do enough in a specially-arranged trial match to convince Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson to pay the two and a half million pounds transfer fee his club, Carlton - which plays in the Australian National Soccer League - were reportedly looking for. At the time of writing, Sunderland and Leeds United were said to be interested in the player. Also at the time of writing, West Ham United were hoping to secure a work permit for Hayden Foxe.

While Scotland are already three games into their World Cup qualifying campaign, Australia's does not start until next April. As in the past, to reach the final, they must negotiate a long and winding road, with no reprieve for finishing runners-up. Australia have qualified only once for the World Cup finals, those in West Germany in 1974. Under former England manager, Terry Venables, they came close to reaching France '98, only to go out on the away goals rule after a two-leg play-off against Iran. What made the exit particularly hard to bear was that Australia went out undefeated.

What made the exit doubly hard to bear was that, with little more than twenty minutes of the second leg of the play-off remaining, they were 3-1 up on aggregate.

Step one this time requires finishing top of a group that consists of Australia, Tonga, Fiji, American Samoa and Samoa. Should Australia top the group - and as the seeded team, that is the expectation - they play on a home and away basis the winners of another qualifying group consisting of New Zealand, Tahiti, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands.



▲ ...Mark Bosnich

But that's not the end of the qualifying trail. Once this play-off is completed, another beckons, against the fifth-placed team in the CONMEBOL qualifying group, which consists of the South American countries Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

While this qualifying exercise has still to be begun, another has been safely negotiated already, namely qualification for next year's Confederation Cup. This is the tournament for the best countries from each of the confederations that make up the world governing body, FIFA. After their victory in Euro 2000, France will be representing UEFA. Australia is to represent the Oceania confederation. In fact, all six confederations that make up FIFA have already submitted their representatives. Joining France and Australia will be Cameroon (CAF), Canada (CONCACAF), Brazil (CONMEBOL), Mexico (the defending champions) and Korea and Japan (representing Asia and likely to be the host nations in a dress rehearsal for the 2002 World Cup).

The Confederations Cup occupies a special place in Aussie soccer's heart because, at the inaugural tournament - held in Saudi Arabia three years ago - Australia finished runners-up to Brazil.

Australia didn't qualify for the 1999 Confederations Cup, despite the qualifying competition taking place in the Australian city of Brisbane. Instead of calling on players based in Europe, the then coach, Raul Blanco, used mainly home-based players. The result, with Farina a spectator, was defeat by New Zealand.

A lesson learned, Farina, in charge of the team hoping to qualify for the 2001 Confederations Cup, opted for as European-based a team as he could possibly muster. With the qualifying competition being held in Tahiti in June this year, the Socceroos began

their campaign with a 17-0 win over the Cook Islands. This was followed by a 6-0 win over the Solomon Islands, though the result was a little flattering since, for some reason, the Islands' coach, George Cowie, had rested some of his best players during the first-half, when all the goals were scored.

The Confederations Cup occupies a special place in Aussie soccer's heart because Australia finished runners-up to Brazil.

This took Australia into the semi-final, against Vanuatu, which proved especially tough, decided by a controversial penalty, converted by Muscat. In fact the game against Vanuatu - admitted into the tournament as last-minute replacements for Fiji who had been forced to pull out because of political unrest at home - proved more awkward than the final, against New Zealand, which Australia won relatively comfortably, 2-0.

Scotland versus Australia for the record

November 20 1985

Scotland 2 Australia 0 (Glasgow)

Scorers: Davie Cooper, Frank McAvennie.
World Cup qualifying match. Play-off, first leg.
Coaches: Scotland - Alex Ferguson, Australia - Frank Arok

December 4 1985

Australia 0 Scotland 0 (Melbourne)

World Cup qualifying match. Play-off, second leg.
Aggregate score: Scotland 2 Australia 0.
Coaches: Scotland - Alex Ferguson, Australia - Frank Arok
P.S. The game was Graeme Souness's fiftieth for his country.

March 27 1996

Scotland 1 Australia 0 (Glasgow)

Scorer: Ally McCoist. Friendly.
Coaches: Scotland - Craig Brown, Australia - Eddie Thomson
P.S. The game was McCoist's fiftieth for his country.

Australia's record since just missing out on qualifying for the 1998 World Cup

Match	Result
Dec 12 1997 vs Mexico (Confederations Cup)	3-1
Dec 14 1997 vs Brazil (Confederations Cup)	0-0
Dec 16 1997 vs Saudi Arabia (Confederations Cup)	0-1
Dec 19 1997 vs Uruguay (Confederations Cup, Semi Final)	1-0
Dec 21 1997 vs Brazil (Confederations Cup, Final)	0-6
Feb 7 1998 vs Chile (Friendly, Optus World Series)	0-1
Feb 11 1998 vs South Korea (Friendly, Optus World Series)	1-0
Feb 15 1998 vs Japan (Friendly, Optus World Series)	0-3
Jun 6 1998 vs Croatia (Friendly)	*0-7
Sept 25 1998 vs Fiji (Oceania Nations Cup)	3-1
Sept 28 1998 vs Cook Islands (Oceania Nations Cup)	16-0
Oct 2 1998 vs Tahiti (Oceania Nations Cup)	4-1
Oct 4 1998 vs New Zealand (Oceania Nations Cup, Final)	0-1
Nov 6 1998 vs USA (Friendly)	0-0
June 12 1999 vs World XI (Friendly)	3-2
July 15 1999 vs Manchester United (Friendly)	0-2
July 18 1999 vs Manchester United (Friendly)	**0-1
Nov 14 1999 vs Brazil (Friendly)	0-1
Nov 17 1999 vs Brazil (Friendly)	2-2

Match	Result
Feb 10 2000 vs Chile (Friendly - Four Nations Tourn.)	1-2
Feb 13 2000 vs Slovakia (Friendly - Four Nations Tourn.)	0-0
Feb 16 2000 vs Bulgaria (Friendly - Four Nations Tourn.)	1-1
Feb 24 2000 vs Hungary (Friendly)	3-0
Mar 30 2000 vs Czech Republic (Friendly)	1-3
June 9 2000 vs Paraguay (Friendly)	0-0
June 12 2000 vs Paraguay (Friendly)	0-0
June 15 2000 vs Paraguay (Friendly)	2-1
June 19 2000 vs Cook Islands (Oceania Nations Cup)	17-0
June 23 2000 vs Solomon Islands (Oceania Nations Cup)	6-0
June 25 2000 vs Vanuatu (Oceania Nations Cup Semi Final)	1-0
June 28 2000 vs New Zealand (Oceania Nations Cup Final)	2-0
Oct 5 2000 vs Kuwait (LG Cup 2000)	1-0
Oct 8 2000 vs South Korea (LG Cup 2000)	2-4

* Final game of manager Terry Venables' reign (succeeded by caretaker manager Raul Blanco)
** Final game of caretaker manager Raul Blanco's reign (succeeded by Frank Farina)
Frank Farina's record: P16 W7 D5 L4

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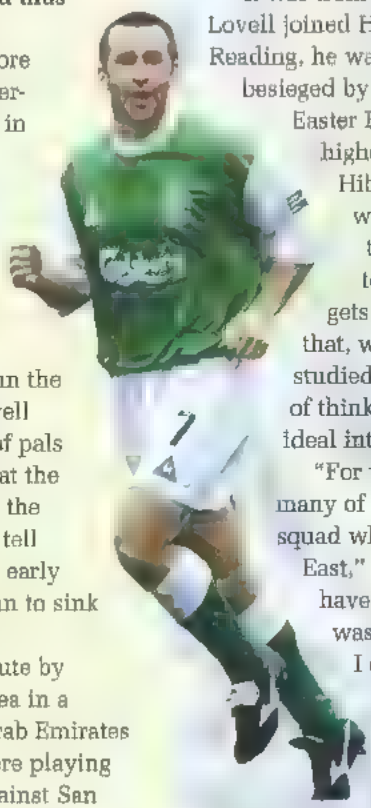
STUART LOVELL ...the quiet man

STUART LOVELL is proof that Aussie soccer's version of MI5 is doing its job. Although they may be long used to having to keep tabs on players from a distance, Australia's soccer spies can take credit in having unearthed Lovell who falls firmly into the category of 'unsung hero', albeit in a Hibernian side that is in form and thus grabbing a lot of media attention.

The Rangers' duo of Craig Moore and Tony Vidmar may be the better-known Aussies plying their trade in Scotland, but Lovell can take comfort in the fact that, while he may go unrecognised in the street, he is being appreciated by those who matter. When he got the call to win his first caps for Australia, by joining the Socceroos for a mini tournament in the Middle East a few weeks ago, Lovell initially thought it was a couple of pals winding him up. It didn't help that the call was at the crack of dawn and the modest and articulate Lovell will tell you that he isn't at his best in the early morning. And then the news began to sink in



▲ ...Stuart Lovell

Lovell was played as a substitute by Australia against Kuwait and Korea in a tournament held in the United Arab Emirates during the week that Scotland were playing World Cup qualifying matches against San Marino and Croatia. Against Kuwait, the Socceroos won 1-0. But against Korea, after being 2-0 up, they succumbed to blistering heat, to lose 4-2.

In the immediate wake of his club's 6-2 win over Hearts in last month's Edinburgh derby, he didn't know what his chances were of being called up again. But that is typical of the midfielder, who refuses to be carried away even when he has just put in a sparkling performance in a historic derby victory

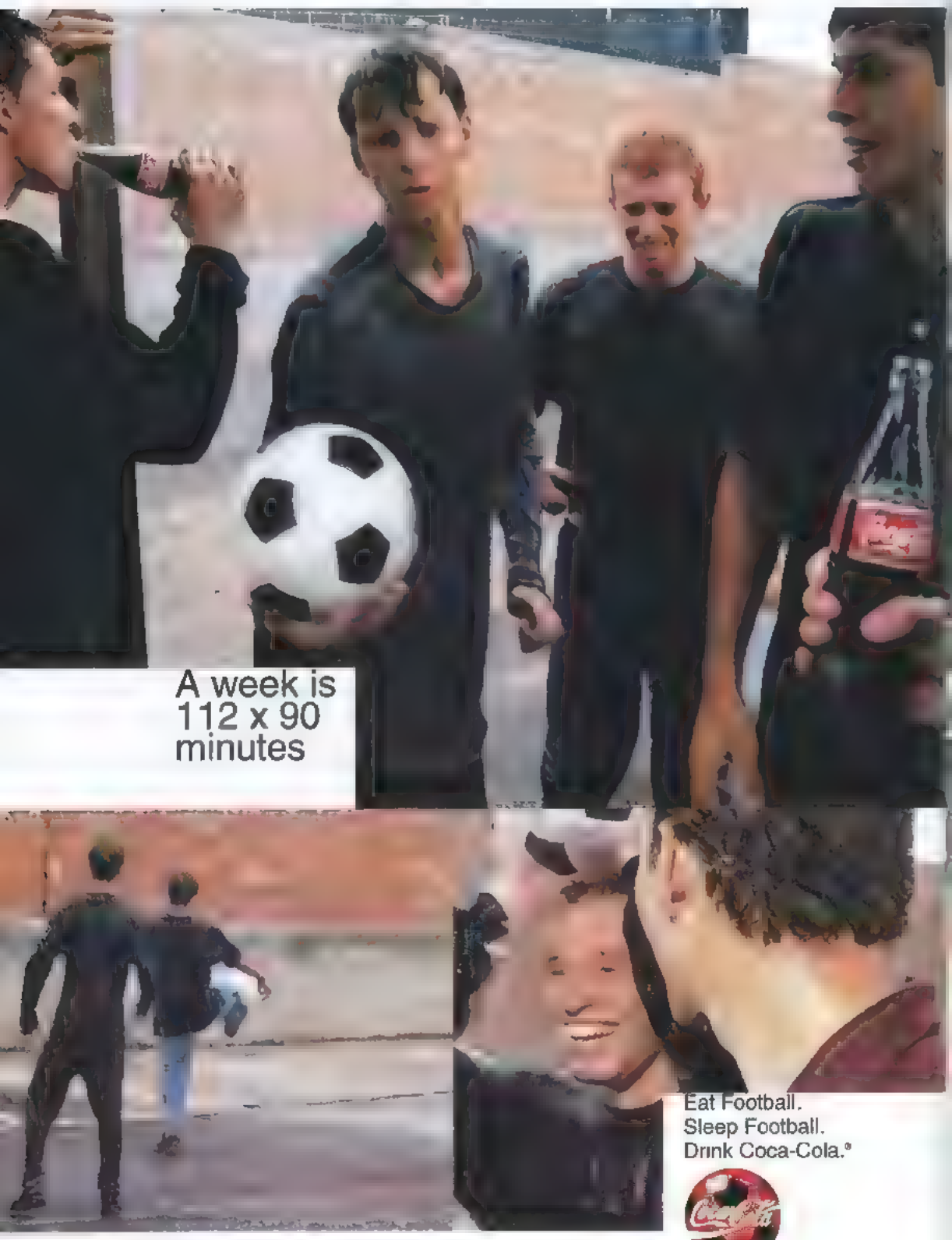
Lovell qualifies for Australia through birth. But his accent is thoroughly Home Counties.

To this day, the 28-year old is not the biggest fan of sea travel, having had to endure a six-week voyage at the age of three when his Aberdeen-born mother and London-born father decided to leave Stuart's birthplace of Sydney for Woodstock in Oxfordshire followed soon after by Reading in Berkshire.

I. was from his local football club that Lovell joined Hibernian in August 1998. At Reading, he was much more likely to be besieged by autograph hunters than he is at Easter Road because he occupied the higher profile role of striker. At Hibernian, he plays right midfield where he has made his mark as the sort of player who stands up to be counted when the going gets tough. It was also at Reading that, with an eye to the future, he studied journalism, a piece of forward of thinking that helps make him an ideal interviewee.

"For the most part, I didn't know many of the players in the Australian squad when I joined them in the Middle East," begins Lovell. "They must have wondered who this character was, with an English accent. When I explained I hadn't been in Australia for over twenty years, I think they were quite bemused. Though people may not understand why, I am proud of having been born in Australia, having that in my blood, and playing for the country. When I got the phone call and I realised it was the national coach and not a wind up, he cut to the chase very quickly and it wasn't difficult to tell him I was very interested. The call came not very long before I had to leave for Dubai, so there wasn't much time to think about it or get nervous about it.

"Around 1995, when Eddie Thompson was the manager and I was banging in goals regularly for Reading in the First Division, I



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met the manager in London when he asked me if I might be available for a European training camp. But not long after that, I had quite a bad hamstring injury, I tore it and was out for a while. And then my form dipped and I fell out of favour a bit. And it went all a bit pear-shaped until May when a journalist from the Sydney Morning Herald told me my name was being touted around.

"I didn't expect to play when I went out to Dubai. I went out with the attitude that I would see how things went. I certainly didn't go there full of myself because with that sort of attitude in football you soon get cut down to size. It is like when you join a new club, you need to win the trust of your team-mates and show you have the ability to be there. I went out to Dubai asking myself the question, 'Am I good enough?' I wasn't sure. It obviously helped I was playing for a club side that is a passing team, because in international football if you lose possession it takes ages to win it back. The one thing that was a struggle for the lads was the heat and humidity, it was pushing 40 degrees. It was a good experience and I hope I have done enough to get another chance."

The journalism studies were partly at the insistence of Stuart's mother. "I was brought up by my mum because my dad worked abroad a lot, he was a freelance draughtsman. And she wasn't chuffed at the idea of me leaving school at the age of 16 to become a footballer, especially on the money that was available, which was pretty paltry. At the club, there was the chance to do day-release at the local college. It was one day a week, but I thought it was pretty poor, so my mum managed to persuade the youth development officer at the club to let me attend college two days a week. So I did a two-year course in newspaper and radio journalism, which I enjoyed and I did a bit of work for the local paper and radio station."

Lovell would have no difficulties waxing lyrical in print or on air about his international team-mates: "There are some incredibly talented players, a lot of raw talent, a lot of young players who could walk pretty much into any side in the Scottish Premier League."

At the most recent Annual General Meeting of Hibs, manager Alex McLeish praised Lovell's influence in the dressing room, describing how supportive he is of younger players. He might be as big a prankster as the next player, but Lovell is clearly not blind to the harsher aspects of dressing room politics. This is one Aussie who does give a XXXX for culture clashes.

"A lot of young players could walk pretty much into any side in the Scottish Premier League."

"I actually quite enjoy the role I have at Hibs, it doesn't bother me too much whether I get recognition from the supporters. Obviously, I would like to be a fans' favourite, every player does, but the way we play I won't get the opportunity to play in a role like [team-mate] Russell Latapy and, to be honest, I wouldn't be as good at it as he is.

▲ ...Alex McLeish praise for Lovell's dressing room influence

"I have a role to play in the team and I feel I have been playing quite well this season. Hibs is such a good place to play, with the style of football that we are playing. I joined Hibs when they had just been relegated to the First Division. The manager made changes very quickly, he knew the players he needed to get the club out of the First Division and, with that objective achieved, he didn't stand still and improved the squad further. We finished last season poorly, but, before the last five games, I think we were quite satisfied with the progress we had made. And the manager acted again in the summer, brought in some very talented players, who have fitted into the team better than anyone could have imagined. I don't think people realise how difficult it can be for players to arrive at a club and gel with the team."

CRAIG MOORE

...the pain and the pleasure

IN THE end, Rangers defender Craig Moore could not recover from injury in time to play for his beloved Australia in his equally beloved Scotland, but at least he is doing the right thing by treating with respect the knee injury he sustained the best part of six months ago.

Two operations later, he is having to restrain his natural enthusiasm to get back to playing football. The first operation came after the Cup final. The second after Rangers' early season Champions' League qualifying match against Lithuanian side, Zalgiris Kaunas. In between, there was a tough pre-season that brought pain. But the thinking at the time was: Isn't pain part and parcel of the pre-season ritual? When his right leg refused to fully straighten against the Lithuanians, he knew something was up, knew that the first operation had been of no use, knew that it was going to be a case of going back to square one

So, it is understandable why he might be taking things a little more gingerly this time around.

Were he more bitter, it would be understandable. That's two Olympic Games he has missed through injury. He was young enough to play in the Atlanta Olympics in 1996, only to have his hopes shattered by a freak accident during a match against, again, Celtic (he was running unchallenged and landed badly on his right foot). To have played at the Sydney Olympics - based just a few miles from where he was brought up - would have meant being chosen as one of a handful of over-age players. But at least he was in with a chance before this current knee injury destroyed that particular dream.

Apart from a short spell at Crystal Palace, Craig Moore has been at Rangers for over seven years. With his catalogue of injuries, it must sometimes feel longer. But he gives the impression of being able to remain cheerful even during the bad times. He was only 17 when he arrived at Ibrox, having come to the attention of both Rangers and Arsenal at an under-20 world championship. Having to cope with home-sickness at an early age has made him resilient to later tribulations.

Unlike club-mate Tony Vidmar, Craig Moore hasn't played for an Australian club. While Vidmar launched his professional career with Adelaide City, Moore was recruited by Rangers straight from the government-funded Australian Institute of Sport. One of his contemporaries and friends at the Institute was ex-Celt, Mark Viduka.

"At the Institute, the training was professional. You trained every day and played in a league against boys who were two years older. The coaching was high quality, as were the other facilities. There was sports psychology. You would be fined if you didn't attend regular massage. They had individual sessions and, away from the football, there were house parents and tutors who dealt with the likes of your schooling. From a very young age, I only had one aim in my mind and that was to come to Britain to play football. I knew between

▲ ...Moore training

the ages of 16 and 18, it would be make or break for me. If I was going to do it in Britain, I knew I needed to go early because I would then have a chance of being taken on as an apprentice. And so I worked very hard at the Institute. And then the under-20 world championship came along and I was fortunate to be offered trials at Rangers and Arsenal. Mind you, I nearly didn't board the plane to leave Australia for Glasgow. But when I said to my father, 'Maybe I should stay a year or two more and play for one of the Australian clubs', he said if it didn't work out, I could always come home. It was hard at first in Glasgow, but the Scottish people are very friendly, they tend to take you in, and I was very fortunate in going to really good digs, with a lovely family."

Injuries aside, the 24-year old has been a regular in the Australian squad for the last four years. Which means he was involved in the depressing tale of his country's failure to qualify for the 1998 World Cup, despite not losing a game.

Australia always have various qualifying hurdles to overcome (without the chance of second-place reprieves as exist in Europe) before being in with even a small shout of qualifying. To qualify for France '98, it had reached the stage where all they had to do was defeat Iran in a two-leg play off. Having drawn the first leg, 1-1, in Teheran, their hopes were understandably high for the second, being played in Melbourne. And then it went awry. Despite being 2-0 up with barely twenty minutes to go, Australia went out on the away goals rule, the visitors managing to score twice in relatively quick succession.

"You would be fined if you didn't attend regular massage."

Continues Moore: "I wouldn't suggest this as an excuse, but the game stopped for about eight to ten minutes as this spectator - who's infamous for exploits like this at big sporting events - started swinging from the crossbar. Up to that stage, the game was dead and buried, we looked capable of scoring a third. But the break seemed to take something away from us and give the Iranians the chance to regroup. It finished two each. Their first was an offside trap that had gone wrong, a bad goal to lose."

That bad memory behind him, Moore has the image of scoring his first goal for his country to keep his spirits from entirely flagging. It was Australia's third in a 3-0 win over Hungary in February this year. "My favourite moment playing for Australia was scoring my first goal. It didn't matter that it was the third goal. Surprisingly, it wasn't a header. I thought I was a striker. I made a run in behind the defence, the ball had been dinked over and I stretched to volley. Unlike me, eh?" The laughter fades at the realisation that victory over Hungary in Budapest was the last time Moore has played for his country.

SCOTLAND

	Name	Club	Caps	Goals
	Goalkeepers			
	Robert DOUGLAS	*Celtic*	-	-
	Jonathan GOULD	*Celtic*	1	-
	Alan MAIN	*St. Johnstone*		-
	Neil SULLIVAN	*Tottenham Hotspur*	19	-
	Defenders			
	Tom BOYD	*Celtic*	67	1
	Christian DAILLY	*Blackburn Rovers*	25	1
	Matt ELLIOTT	*Leicester City*	12	1
	Colin HENDRY	*Coventry City*	48	1
	Brian O'NEIL	*VfL Wolfsburg*	5	-
	Steven PRESSLEY	*Heart of Midlothian*	2	-
	Paul RITCHIE	*Manchester City*	8	1
	David WEIR	*Everton*	23	-
	Midfield			
	Craig BURLEY	*Derby County*	39	3
	Colin CAMERON	*Heart of Midlothian*	8	1
	Callum DAVIDSON	*Leicester City*	13	-
	Barry FERGUSON	*Rangers*	8	1
	Jackie MCNAMARA	*Celtic*	11	-
	Dominic MATTEO	*Leeds United*		-
	Gary NAYSMITH	*Everton*	4	-
	Forwards			
	Paul DICKOV	*Manchester City*	2	-
	Billy DODDS	*Rangers*	20	4
	Don HUTCHISON	*Sunderland*	13	6
	Allan JOHNSTON	*Rangers*	11	2
	Neil MCCANN	*Rangers*	10	1
	Kenny MILLER	*Rangers*	-	-

REFEREE:
Pascal Garibian *(France)*

ASSISTANT REFEREES:
Alain Augu and
Bruno Cheftel
(both France)

FOURTH OFFICIAL:
Michael McCurry *(Scotland)*

Scottish Gas

AUSTRALIA

Name	Club	Caps	Goals
Goalkeepers			
John FILAN	Blackburn Rovers	3	0
Zeljko KALAC	Roda JC	41	-
Defenders			
Hayden FOXE	West Ham	9	-
Stephen LAYBUTT	Feyenoord	11	1
Stan LAZARIDIS	Birmingham City	45	-
Shaun MURPHY	Sheffield United	11	1
Kevin MUSCAT	Wolverhampton Wanderers	28	5
Tony POPOVIC	Sanfrecce Hiroshima	30	2
Tony VIDMAR	Rangers	55	1
Midfield			
Luke CASSERLY	AIK Solna	6	0
Brett EMERTON	Feyenoord	19	1
Stuart LOVELL	Hibernian	2	-
Paul OKON	Middlesbrough	24	1
Josip SKOKO	Racing Genk	15	1
Danny TIATTO	Manchester City	21	1
Kasey WEHRMAN	Perth Glory	10	-
Forwards			
Paul AGOSTINO	TSV 1860 Munich	15	8
Mile STERJOVSKI	Lille		
Mark VIDUKA	Leeds United	18	2
David ZDRILIC	Unterhaching	11	3

* First aid duties at this evening's match are kindly carried out by the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association
* Please note that smoking is prohibited within the BT Scotland South Stand.
* Tonight's match sponsor is Scottish Gas, the official and exclusive sponsor of Scotland's home matches and of the Scottish national teams.
* The Mitre Ultimax match ball has been supplied by Mitre Sports International Ltd, the official ball suppliers to the Scottish Football Association and the Scottish Football League.
* Spectators are urged to exercise the utmost care when leaving the ground, particularly in staircase areas. Your doing so will reduce to a minimum the risk of accident. We ask you to pay particular attention to this notice.

Nationwide

STUART MUNRO
...The perfect partnership

...Stuart Munro in his playing days in Scotland

STUART MUNRO has been in the news recently. But almost entirely by association. As manager of Carlton, one of three Melbourne-based clubs in the 16-club National Soccer League (Australia's premier soccer league), he has been an obvious source of comment on approaches by his club's owner to British football clubs with a view to forming a partnership.

Not knowing the fine detail of any discussions Carlton owner, Peter Jess, has had with any British club, including - on an informal basis - Scottish club, Dundee, Stuart has been restricted in what he can say

But he has plenty to say about the National Soccer League, that has just recently begun its new season.

Last season, after Stuart's first season in charge, Carlton finished third. It is a start to his managerial career to be more than proud of, all the more so since Stuart - fondly remembered for his exploits at Alloa Athletic, Rangers, Blackburn Rovers, Bristol City, Falkirk and St Mirren - had no idea he was going to wind up in management when he first arrived in Australia.

Almost as he was beginning to scale the heights of professional football as a full-back with Rangers, Stuart knew he was going to wind up in Australia when his playing career came to an end. Being married to an Australian meant emigration had long been in his family's plans.

But while his arrival in Australia just three years ago was by design, his elevation into football management was almost entirely a matter of luck.

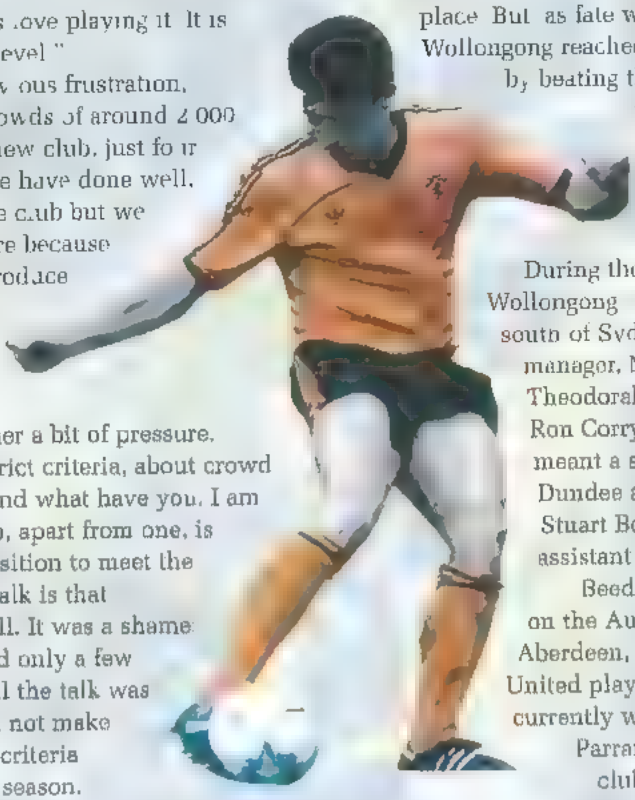
But it hasn't stopped him wishing for greater professionalism within the NSL and bigger crowds and more money at Carlton and hankering for the day when soccer is no longer confined to a couple of paragraphs in the country's daily newspapers.

In Melbourne, football is big. But it is of the Aussie Rules variety. Further North, in Sydney, the sport that eclipses soccer and every other sport is rugby. "There was a report of a survey in the newspapers the other day that said that 66 per cent of players in the NSL were full-time, a record high," begins Stuart. "But soccer is the fourth sport in Australia and it struggles to get the sponsorship dollar. In Melbourne, they are very passionate about Aussie Rules, the passion is like that for football back home in Scotland. There isn't enough money to sustain professional soccer across the board in Australia, which is a shame because the game

deserves it and Australia is producing some marvellous players. Australia is a bit like the USA, the kids love playing it. It is big at grassroots level."

To Stuart's obvious frustration, Carlton attract crowds of around 2,000. "We are a fairly new club, just four years old. And we have done well. We are a full-time club but we are under pressure because the NSL is to introduce membership criteria at the end of the season which could put us under a bit of pressure. They are quite strict criteria, about crowd sizes, stadiums and what have you. I am not sure any club, apart from one, is presently in a position to meet the criteria, but the talk is that eventually 12 will. It was a shame the season started only a few weeks ago and all the talk was about who might not make the membership criteria at the end of the season. The one club that meets the criteria already is another new club, Perth Glory, but they play in a part of Australia where there isn't the passion, as elsewhere, for other sports. There isn't the same competition from other sports. There is also quite a large British contingent in Perth. The Glory have money and are the real success story of the NSL. The Glory's average crowd is 15,000 and when they reached the Grand Final last season, there was a crowd of over 40,000. It was fantastic."

The Grand Final is the NSL's version of the play off system to be found in the likes of Basketball. At the end of the home and away schedule of matches, Perth Glory finished top of the league. Second-placed Wollongong Wolves stood in the way of a place in the Grand Final. Perth defeated Wollongong to book their place. But as fate would have it, Wollongong reached the Grand Final also, by beating the best from the third to sixth placed clubs. And in a reversal of the play off match, Wollongong won the Grand Final.



▲ ...Stuart Beedie, now managing in Australia

During the close season, Wollongong - about an hour's drive south of Sydney - lost their manager, Nick Theodorakopoulas. In appointing Ron Corry as the new manager, it meant a step up for former Dundee and Hibernian player, Stuart Beedie, into the post of assistant manager.

Beedie is not the only Scot on the Aussie scene. Former Aberdeen, Celtic and Dundee United player, Joe Miller, is currently with Sydney-based Parramatta Power. At Stuart's club, Carlton, there is former Rangers, Hearts and Scotland defender, Dave McPherson.

Parramatta Power is managed by former Rangers player, Dave Mitchell, and it was Mitchell who helped Stuart on to his current career trajectory.

▲ ...Dave Mitchell, now at Parramatta

"I knew I was coming to Australia but had no idea what I would be doing," continued Stuart. "Dave Mitchell persuaded me to play another season, for his club at the time: Sydney United. After that, I did a little coaching for a NSL side in Victoria called Gippsland Falcons [now called Eastern Pride]. And then, a year ago, I joined Carlton."

The two other clubs in Melbourne - South Melbourne and the Melbourne Knights - are much more

established than Carlton. Away matches against any club other than South Melbourne and the Melbourne Knights means having to fly for at least an hour or two. Perth is five hours away. And there's a new arrival in the NSL in the shape of a New Zealand club, Football Kingz.

Adds Stuart: "I am still learning my trade and I am loving it. Australia is a marvellous country. The lifestyle is just so good. Mostly T-shirt and shorts weather. The countryside is so diverse. In the far north, crocodile country. There is skiing an hour's drive from Melbourne. They say that if there is going to be poor weather, then Melbourne will get it. But a rainy month in Melbourne is like an average week in Scotland. It can feel like a relief when the rain does come."

The lifestyle may be good, but a fact of life for a manager like Stuart is having to see the best players constantly lured to Europe. Just a couple of weeks ago, Stuart was surprised when defensive midfielder Simon Colosimo returned from failing to impress Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson. But he doesn't expect the player to be around for long. At the time of writing, another striker was locked in negotiations with Austrian giants, Sturm Graz. "His name is Archie Thompson. He sounds like a Scot, but he is actually an Islander. He is a striker and absolutely terrific. Colosimo and Thompson are our prize assets and the NSL keeps producing good players."

Why, if we call football 'football', Australians call football 'soccer' and their national side, the 'Socceroos'?
Because 'down under', the term 'football' applies to what we know as Aussie Rules'.

Scotland have seven points out of a possible nine from their World Cup qualifying campaign so far. How are the Socceroos faring?
The Socceroos' campaign to qualify for the 2002 World Cup doesn't begin until April and, to make it all the way to Korea and Japan, they have to win their five-team Oceania group, then win a play-off with the winners of another Oceania group and then win a play-off against the fifth-placed team from the CONMEBOL group of South American countries.

The top league in Scotland is the Scottish Premier League. What is it down under?
The main football league in Australia is called the National Soccer League, which began its 2000-2001 last month, on the 13th. There are 16 clubs in the NSL, which was formed in 1977. In the west there is Perth Glory. In the east, nine teams including South Melbourne, who represented the Oceania group in the inaugural FIFA Club World Championship, held in Brazil at the start of the year. And across the Tasman Sea, in New Zealand, there is NSL's more recent recruit, the Football Kingz.

Who are the current champions of the NSL?
Wollongong Wolves. The other clubs are Adelaide City (who finished 5th last season), Brisbane Strikers (9th), Canberra Cosmos (14th), Carlton (3rd), Eastern Pride (formerly Gippsland Falcons)(15th), Kingz FC (8th), Marconi Stallions (6th), Melbourne Knights (12th), Newcastle United (new club) (7th as Newcastle Breakers), Northern Spirit (13th), Parramatta Power (11th), Perth Glory (runners-up), South Melbourne (10th), Sydney Olympic (4th), and Sydney United (16th).

I recognise the names Nothern Spirit and Carlton. Haven't they a connection with Rangers and Dundee, respectively?
Rangers has a 51 per cent stake in Northern Spirit, Dundee owner Peter Marr has informally talked with the Carlton owner Peter Jess, who is looking for a tie-up with a British club.

Didn't ex-Celtic player, Mark Viduka, used to play for Melbourne Knights?
Yes, but he arrived at Celtic Park via Croatian side, Dinamo Zagreb. He is now at Leeds United, with fellow Socceroo, Harry Kewell. There are two Socceroos at Rangers too: Craig Moore and Tony Vidmar. And there is Chris Coyne at Dundee.

So just how big a world power are the Socceroos?
Australia's world ranking, according to governing body, FIFA, is around the lowest it has been for some years. In June, it was as low as 92nd, which compares very poorly with the 32nd place the country enjoyed in May two years ago. Currently, it is 70. Meanwhile, Scotland's is 25. The ranking hasn't been helped by a fairly ordinary performance in a mini tournament held in the United Arab Emirates last month, when the Socceroos narrowly defeated Kuwait 1-0 and lost 4-2 to Korea (despite being 2-0 up).

So, in the same vein as the Scottish Football Association, presumably the governing body 'down under' is the Australian Football Association?
No, after being initially called the Australian Soccer Federation, it had a name change about five years ago, so it is now called Soccer Australia. The Federation was founded in 1963 - 90 years after the founding of the SFA.

The halcyon days of 1967
...Alex Ferguson reminisces

...Alex Ferguson in action for Falkirk against Rangers

IT WAS a time like no other for Scottish football, halcyon days when - for a couple of months during the spring and summer of 1967 - there was no disputing that Scotland were the best.

Dizzy times, launched into orbit with a mesmerising win by the national team over the recently-crowned World Champions, England. And in their own backyard. Less a victory, more a moment carved in history, the abiding memory being Jim Baxter's cheeky keepy-up on the Wembley turf. That was on April 15 and before the season's end, there would be lots more to come, this time from Scotland's clubs.

Over two legs of a Fairs Cup semi-final, on May 19 and 24, Kilmarnock would narrowly lose to Leeds United. On May 25, Celtic would become the first British club to lift the European Cup. And in the final of the Cup Winners' Cup, on May 31, Rangers would just miss out on making it a Scottish one-two by losing by a goal to nil to Bayern Munich.

Such a feast. Hardly surprising therefore that - with the feel of missionary zeal to it - the Scottish Football Association would agree to sending a squad of players knocking on the door of international stardom on a world tour.

For a young Scottish striker called Alex Ferguson - now Sir Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager - the invitation to join the tour was irresistible. Although the matches Scotland were to play would not be considered full internationals, Ferguson was at a point in his career where he hoped full honours would soon beckon. The player was also poised to leave his club, Dunfermline, for pastures new.

The tour's ports of call were Israel, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. It lasted from May 16 to June 13. Ferguson was one of the few members of the squad to see it through from beginning to end

"It was the summer I left Dunfermline for Rangers," begins Sir Alex. "It was an important time I had had a great spell at Dunfermline. I knew of Rangers' interest. There was a lot of anticipation. It was a

long tour, I think every player who came back had a real ropey season, because of all the travelling. When I came back I had only two weeks off before going into pre-season training. I started the pre-season training at Dunfermline and then I moved to Rangers. The tour was very exacting.

...Tommy McLean in Kilmarnock colours

"It started off with quite a good collection of players. But we were decimated with call offs from players at Rangers, Celtic, Leeds United and Kilmarnock. Celtic had got to the final of the European Cup and Rangers had got to the final of the Cup Winners' Cup. And Leeds United and Kilmarnock played each other in the semi-final of the Fairs Cup. After Kilmarnock went out, two of their players - Tommy McLean and Jackie McGrory - joined us during the tour. There were a lot of players who were called in during the tour."

The sadness is that Sir Alex Ferguson was never to win a full cap for his country. "I'd played for the Scottish League team that played the English League at Hampden three weeks before the full international between England and Scotland at Wembley. At Hampden, we lost 3-0, unfortunately. The ironic thing is that I had been playing really well. I think I was top scorer in Scotland at the time. But it was the substitutes at Hampden - Willie Wallace and Bobby Lennox - who played at Wembley. It had been the usual, knee-jerk reaction to the loss at Hampden. So I was disappointed because, had it been a better result at Hampden, I would have probably played at Wembley.

"I got another Scottish League cap after that, against Ireland. At that time, there were some terrific strikers. I was in with a chance of playing at Wembley partly because Denis Law was having some knee trouble and was doubtful for the game at Wembley. But, in the end, he made it. And Denis was the greatest centre-forward ever. There were others as well, such Ian St John, Joe McBride, Willie Wallace, Bobby Lennox, Stevie Chalmers, a lot of good players."

"At that time, there were some terrific strikers. And Denis Law was the greatest centre-forward ever"

Despite the tour failing to provide the intended platform for full honours, Sir Alex is adamant it was far from being a waste of time. "No, no. It was terrific. It was an amazing tour because so many things happened. We went to Israel as the Five Day War was breaking out. We went to Hong Kong when Maoist riots were going on and that curtailed our opportunities there, a wonderful place. In Australia, the games were very physical, there was an Italian, Giacometti, who I think had a kick at everybody. At the time, the Australian team was a collection of players who had recently emigrated from Italy, Greece and England. I think there was even a Scot playing for them. They have progressed a lot since then; they set up the Institute of Sport, which has produced a lot of very good players."

The games against Australia finished 1-0, 2-1 and 2-0, each in Scotland's favour. By the end of the tour,

Ferguson had notched ten goals, three of them against Australia who were being managed by a man who was later to take the reins at Celtic, Joe Venglos.

The matches played in 1967 against Australia - in Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne - have not been classed as full internationals. What that means is that although Sir Alex has not played against Australia at full international level more than any other, he has certainly managed Scotland against Australia at full international level more than any other.

In the wake of the tragic death of his predecessor, Jock Stein, Ferguson led the Scotland team to a two leg play off against Australia for a place in the 1986 World Cup. The first game, at Hampden Park on November 20 1985, ended 2 0 in Scotland's favour. To book their place in the World Cup finals in Mexico, all Scotland had to do was keep things tight in the return on December 4, in Melbourne. Thanks to a decision to play the return in the evening rather than in sweltering mid-day heat, Scotland managed a 0-0 draw.

It was mission accomplished, but it hadn't been easy. Adds Sir Alex: "The evidence was there that they had improved over the previous few years. They were very athletic, would run all day, and had great attitude. And to be honest with you, the games were very, very hard for Scotland. We were by far the better team at Hampden and should have won by more. But they were dogged, they were hard to break down. We scored through Frank McAvennie and Davie Cooper, but it wasn't until well into the second half.

"In the return game, we were very lucky. Jim Leighton, in goal, made three fantastic saves. For the first hour, they were all over us. In the last half hour, they started to run out of steam. We were glad to get through. I was personally glad to be able to visit Australia again because it meant I could see my great uncle Alex, who I was called after. He lived in Sydney and was 90 years old. I flew from Melbourne on the Saturday to see him."

It was only last year that Sir Alex was again on football duty in Australia when his club, Manchester United, twice played the national side. This season, he sees Australian players week in, week out plying their trade in the English Premiership.

"They have a few good players. Harry Kewell at Leeds United is their best player, by far. He is an absolutely marvellous player. Mark Viduka [who recently scored all four goals for Leeds in a 4-3 win over Liverpool] you have, of course, Danny Tiatto [at Manchester City] is very aggressive, a very quick player. But [Manchester United goalkeeper] Mark Bosnich won't be playing, he has just had a hernia operation. It certainly won't be an easy game for Scotland."

▲...Alex Ferguson playing for Ayr United

▲...Danny Tiatto

FRANK FARINA

My World is Round

Frank Farina

AS ENGLAND has opted for a foreign manager to take charge of the national side, Australia has opted for a young manager clearly in a hurry. Frank Farina is only just turned 36 and as recently as ten years ago was being chosen 'Best Foreign Player' in Belgium, while playing for Club Brugge. He only gave up playing at international level seven years ago. Less than four years ago, he was still playing regularly at senior level.

The youngest of four children, Farina was born in Darwin on September 5 1964 and spent his early childhood in Papua New Guinea. His father, Paolo, was from Faenza, Italy, and his mother, Bess, is from Townsville, in Queensland.

After winning a scholarship to the Australian Institute of Sport in 1982, he joined Canberra Arrows in Australia's premier league competition, the National Soccer League. True to form, Farina didn't hang around to make his mark, scoring on his debut, against Adelaide City. Indeed, he holds the record for the fastest 100 goals in the NSL, reaching the century mark in only his 182nd appearance, paving the way for a career average of one goal in every 2.17 appearances.

After the Arrows, spells at Sydney City and Marconi Fairfield teed up an eagerly-anticipated departure for Europe, where he starred for Club Brugge in Belgium, Bari in Italy and Strasbourg and Lille, both in France. He even managed five appearances for English club, Notts County. His 24 goals for Club Brugge in season 1989/90 not only helped him scoop the Best Foreign Player award, it also brought him the leading goalscorer award and a Belgian championship-winning medal.

His return to Australia in 1995 led to no loss in his goalscoring touch. With the appropriately-named Brisbane Strikers, he netted 20 times in season 1995/96.

Frank Farina was chosen as 'Best Foreign Player' in Belgium ten years ago.

Clearly not one to loiter, whether in front of goal or in other aspects of his life, the next season saw Farina, by this time a player-coach, help lead the Strikers to a 2-0 victory over Sydney United in the championship play-off final, in front of a 40,000 crowd. By November 1997, he was already being named Coach of the Year, by the sports federation in his local state of Queensland.

In being picked for the national squad at the age of 19, Farina was the first Institute student to make it all the way to the 'Socceroos'. By the end of his international career, he was one of the most decorated Australian players ever. In his recently

published book, *My World is Round**, he comes across as a proud and driven man. He writes: "I think I've always been quite single-minded about my football, once I made up my mind that is what I wanted to do. I've always been focussed, and always been prepared to train and work hard." And he clearly hates losing, even at training: "If you're playing in my team, you've got to play with the same intensity as I do, otherwise you may as well play in another team."

As indication of the spirit Australia are likely to display this evening, he says: "I look for a player who, if they lose the ball, chases after it; if they get tackled, they get up and try to win the ball back. That's the sort of attitude I want.

"My ambition now is to have a successful career as a coach, and to continue to contribute something to the game I love and to continue to pave the way so Australian soccer realises its potential. I want to see it as the premier football code in our country, enjoyed

"I've always been focussed, and always been prepared to train and work hard."

and supported by many people; and to see Australia respected as a football nation in a code that has true international prominence and recognition."

** My World is Round, published by Vox Peritus.*

The World Cup story so far...

2nd September, 2000

Latvia 0 **Scotland 1**

McCann 88

Scotland: Sullivan, Weir (sub Naysmith 46), Dailly, Elliott, Hendry (captain), Davidson (sub Cameron 46), Boyd, Ferguson, Dodds (sub Holt 90),Hutchison, McCann.

7th October, 2000

San Marino 0 **Scotland 2**

Elliott 71, Hutchison 73

Scotland: Sullivan, McNamara, Naysmith, Elliott, Hendry, Dailly (sub Weir 36), Dodds, Cameron, Gallacher (captain) (sub Dickov 65), Hutchison, McCann (sub Johnston 46).

11th October, 2000

Croatia 1 **Scotland 1**

Boksic 15 Gallacher 23

Scotland: Sullivan, Weir, Naysmith, Elliott, Hendry (captain), Boyd, Johnston (sub Dickov 46, sub Holt 89), Burley, Gallacher, Hutchison, Cameron

Group 6 - Current Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Belgium	2	1	1	0	4	0	4
Croatia	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
San Marino	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Latvia	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Forthcoming Fixtures: See you there!

Saturday, 24th March, 2001
Scotland v. Belgium

Wednesday, 28th March, 2001
Scotland v. San Marino

Saturday, 1st September, 2001
Scotland v. Croatia

Wednesday, 5th September, 2001
Belgium v. Scotland

Saturday, 6th October, 2001
Scotland v. Latvia

The Scottish Football Museum

...a fantastic monument to Scotland's footballing heritage

NOVEMBER 30 may be known to Scots as St Andrew's Day, but for many football fans it holds an altogether different and arguably more important significance. At the West of Scotland cricket ground in Glasgow on November 30 1872, Scotland played out a 0-0 draw with England. Not an earth-shattering result, perhaps. But, since it was the first ever international football match, an occasion that shook the world.

It is therefore hardly surprising that the 30th of this month has been chosen as the date when the doors to the eagerly-awaited Scottish Football Museum are officially - albeit half - opened.

For the last eleven years, museum curators commissioned by the Scottish Football Association have been gathering information and artifacts for a museum planned for the National Stadium at Hampden Park. Now that the redevelopment of Hampden Park is complete, the curators are at last beginning to move in

Between the 30th of this month and next spring, the museum will be tested out on only those who book in advance. Come next spring, the doors will be fully flung open, to all-comers. Anyone who visited the SFA's temporary football museum, hosted by Glasgow's Museum of Transport, will be staggered by the scale of the transformation in prospect. Taking up 1,500 square metres, the new displays will be ten times the size of the space given over to Scottish football at the Transport Museum.

And, according to the head of the Scottish Football Museum, Ged O'Brien, you ain't seen nothing yet. After reaching 1,500 square metres, the next target is 4,250 square metres. The ultimate goal is to make every nook and cranny of Hampden Park a monument to Scotland's central role in the development of the game of football.

It's a never-ending search for stories and memorabilia for O'Brien, who has a staff of nine curators and would be dissatisfied even if he had twenty times that number.

Began O'Brien: "Five years ago, we were asking ourselves, 'Can we get enough objects to fill a museum?' Now, we have had so many objects donated to us, we can't display everything. But this does not quench the thirst for more. We don't have at least one championship medal from every season, and we want one. We don't have a Cup winners' medal from every season, and we want one. We don't have a shirt from every international ever played by Scotland and we want one. And so on and so forth. And the thing is, every new day sees a new piece of Scottish football history being made."

What visitors will see are exhibits not just in glass cases but brought to life in thrilling scenarios. There will be even be a life-size recreation of the goal scored by Archie Gemmill for Scotland against Holland in the 1978 World Cup. "I call that goal, one of the best goals scored in any World Cup, a 'JFK moment'," adds O'Brien, in reference to the day when USA President, JF Kennedy, was assassinated in Dallas in 1963. "Most

people know exactly where they were when that goal was scored."

What particularly excites O'Brien is having a museum within a stadium of breathtaking historical importance in its own right. Hampden lays claim to every European attendance record worth bothering about. Until 1950, it was the biggest football stadium in the world. It is the oldest continuously-used international stadium in the world.

▲ ...Sketch from the first international match, England v Scotland in 1872

"There is such a big education aspect to the museum. I would bet you that no more than one in a thousand football fans know that, at its height, just before the Second World War, Hampden Park had a capacity of 185,000."

In the pipeline is a football tour of Glasgow and perhaps another of Scotland. "You have football-mad tourists visiting Glasgow and not even knowing about the West of Scotland cricket ground. What was also interesting about that first ever

▲ ...The famous Wembley Wizards ball

international is that the English, who came to Scotland with an essentially dribbling game, left convinced that the future lay in the Scottish style of football, a passing and running game.

"The history of the game throughout the world is shot through with a Scottish dimension. There were so many Scots who took football around the world, for example.

"A favourite story of mine concerns an Archie McLean, who played for Ayr United and Johnstone before the First World War. He was an engineer in a coach works in Paisley and his company sent him out to Brazil to help set up a branch out there. He is almost completely unknown in Scotland, but in Brazil he is acclaimed as one of the founding fathers of Brazilian football. He is noted for having brought a 'scientific style', one that emphasised keeping the ball on the deck as opposed to kick and rush.

"Another favourite story is about the USA team that competed in the first ever World Cup, held in 1930. The majority of that team were Scots-born. The more we speak to people, the more people want to tell us their stories. The more we show people the exhibits we have, the more people bring along something that belongs to them or their family. It is an awesome project and this is just the beginning."

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KEVIN GALLACHER'S fiftieth cap for his country, against San Marino, on October 7, elevated him into the Scottish Football Association's Hall of Fame. But there are plans afoot to establish a Scottish Football Hall of Fame that recognises that football greatness is not just about the number of caps won.

Two fact-finding missions to Sports Halls of Fame in the USA and the appointment of an independent research group that includes the likes of well-known radio broadcaster and football historian, Bob Crampsey, has helped curators at the soon-to-be-opened Scottish Football Museum at Hampden Park draw up a set of rules to help induct people from all football quarters, including players, managers, administrators and journalists.

"It is not as easy as you might think coming up with the rules," begins Ged O'Brien, head of the Scottish Football Museum. "There are so many potential controversies. How, for example, do you compare a player from the 1980s, whose every move is reported avidly and in technicolour by the media, with a player from the 1890s, when there were was hardly any football media?

"How do you compare an international player before 1950, when Scotland played, on average, no more than four internationals a season, with an international player nowadays when the average number of games Scotland plays a season is approaching double figures?"

Warning to his theme, O'Brien continued: "There is a Queen's Park player called Walter Arnott, who played for Scotland in the 1880s and 1890s. He won 14 caps. The only internationals that Scotland ever played back then were against the other Home Nations, a situation that persisted until after the Second World War. And a player of Arnott's class was rarely picked for matches against Wales and Ireland because to have played a full-strength Scotland side would have resulted in hammerings which was considered unsporting.

"So, Arnott was confined mainly to games against England. And do you know how many games he played against England? Ten. Unquestionably, he was one of the greatest ever players to don the dark blue of Scotland. Celtic's Jimmy McGrory won just seven Scotland caps, but I would be stunned if he wasn't in a Scottish Football Hall of Fame.

"Applying the correct historical perspective is one of the hardest aspects of setting up a Hall of Fame. The broad rules have got to ensure there is proper representation of players who played before the Second World War."

With his eye on the longer-term legacy of the Scottish Football Hall of Fame and the Scottish Football Museum, both of which he heads, O'Brien added: "This is a Hall of Fame that has to be seen to be working not just next year or in five years' time. You want it working in thirty years' time. In fifty years' time, you want the inductees being honoured to be every bit as deserving of the honour as those greats who would automatically trip off most people's tongues today."

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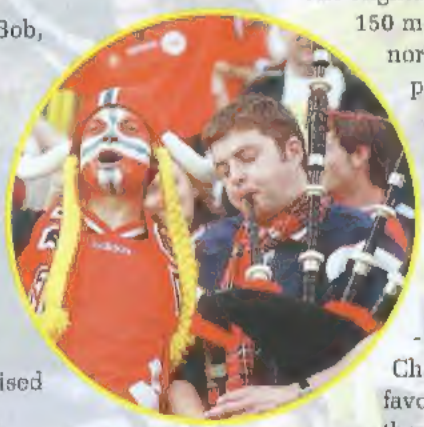
Meanwhile, the Association of Tartan Army Clubs is looking for pipers and drummers to help add to the atmosphere at Hampden Park during the World Cup qualifiers being played next year. Contact Craig Stephen of the Edinburgh Tartan Army by e-mailing him at shaky31@hotmail.com.

TRAVELLERS' TALES...Stories from the fans

HOPEFULLY, BOB RIDDOCH found time last night to celebrate his 59th birthday. The treasurer of the Highland Tartan Army club has been so run off his feet these last few weeks, he is only too glad to have found the time to attend this evening's match. With Christmas fast approaching, it has been a hectic round of raffles, race nights and other fund-raising.

"Put it this way," begins Bob, "if I had a full-time job, I wouldn't be able to do the work I do for the Highland Tartan Army."

Bob retired from the Prison Service ten years ago and has hardly missed a Scotland match, home or away, since. By the time he retired, he had risen to chief officer level and been recognised in the Queen's Honours List, receiving an Imperial Service Medal for his devotion to duty



▲ ...Scots fans in party mood

His prison service career began in Aberdeen and took him to Dumfries, Barlinnie (in Glasgow) and Inverness, where he now lives. "My first away match with Scotland was just after I retired, San Marino versus Scotland.

"You'll understand, I couldn't get to away matches when I was in the prison service, though it didn't stop me seeing Scotland at home. My first Scotland match was against England, at Hampden Park in 1966, when we lost 4-3."

Despite his Aberdonian accent, he is a confirmed Hibernian fan, after being taken to an Aberdeen versus Hibernian match when he was nine years old. "I saw the Hibs' Famous Five forward line of Gordon Smith, Bobby Johnstone, Laurie Reilly, Eddie Turnbull and Willie Ormond and I was immediately won over. They were tremendous."

Bob's selfless contribution to the Highland Tartan Army means he is one of only two people accorded Life Membership status, the other being Scotland manager, Craig Brown.

The Highland Tartan Army numbers over 150 members, from Thurso in the far north and Perth in the south. All paid-up members of the Scotland Travel Club, the Highland Tartan Army endeavour to travel abroad as a group.

From a rich seam of memories, Bob - who used to play Highland League football - counts the 1992 European Championships in Sweden as his favourite away trip. "We were there for ten days and the Swedish people were so friendly.

"Definitely, the coldest away trip was when we played Russia during the qualifying campaign for Euro '96 and drew 0-0. One of the funniest moments was when we followed Scotland to the USA for a couple of friendly matches before Euro '96. Scotland played Colombia in Miami and after the game I phoned my wife. I said to her, 'What have you been doing today?' She said, 'I'm just back from shopping at Safeways'. I said, 'That's nice, I am on a day trip to the Bahamas'."

For details of the Scotland Travel Club, telephone 0141-332 6372. Membership costs £30 (adult) and £15 (child).

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